

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

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Clinician Public Health Advisory **Foodborne Illness Associated with a Camden-area Restaurant –** **“The Old South Restaurant” (Update # 1)**

Background Information

On Sunday May 22, 2005, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) was notified by the Kershaw Medical Center that an increased incidence of patients with symptoms of nausea, fever, vomiting, and diarrhea had been observed by the Emergency Department.

The investigation found that all cases had eaten at a popular Camden-area restaurant. Initially, the only suspected date of exposure was Thursday, May 19, 2005. In addition, a second cohort of cases has been identified from a private event which served food purchased at the restaurant, also on May 19, 2005. Beginning May 24, 2005, the health department began receiving reports of similar symptoms among people who had eaten at the same restaurant on Sunday, May 22, 2005. The restaurant has voluntarily closed until further notice.

To date, there have been 157 confirmed and suspected cases with 27 hospital admissions from reports for people exposed on May 19 and May 22. Of the stool specimens submitted, twelve (12) have tested positive for *Salmonella* at this time with results pending from other suspect cases. The isolates are being sent to the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for sero-grouping and confirmation. Suspected cases have also presented at other hospitals in the state. The initial salmonella isolates were reported by the hospital lab to be sensitive to ciprofloxacin, ampicillin, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.

Each year, approximately 40,000 cases of salmonellosis are reported in the United States. Because many milder cases are not diagnosed or reported, the actual number is much greater. Symptoms of infection with *Salmonella* include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever, usually within 8-72 hours after being exposed. This illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without antibiotic treatment. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are at greater risk for severe infections.

Recommended Guidance

- Hospitals and physician offices should operate on a raised index of suspicion for illnesses related to this outbreak.
- Stool specimens are important for identifying any potentially foodborne or enteric illness and should be collected from patients possibly linked to this outbreak.
- This advisory serves as a reminder that any outbreak, unusual disease, or cluster of cases is immediately reportable to local county health departments.
- Please report suspected cases that are associated with eating at this restaurant to DHEC as soon as the case is identified.
- Routinely, salmonellosis is reportable within 7 days and labs should submit these isolates to the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for confirmatory testing, serotyping, or serogrouping.

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of cases or possible cases of Salmonellosis and outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at:
http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

District Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

Appalachia I

(Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

Appalachia II

(Greenville, Pickens)

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

Appalachia III

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Catawba

(Chester, Lancaster, York)

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 283-0572
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or
1-(888)-739-0748

Edisto Savannah

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 642-1619
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Edisto Savannah

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Low Country

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

1407 King Street
Beaufort, SC 29902
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 525-7621
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Palmetto

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Pee Dee

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Trident

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3832
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Upper Savannah

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

PO Box 3227
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Waccamaw

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Wateree

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.